

[0021] Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

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1 1. In a road grader having a rear frame including left and right longitudinal
2 beams, each having a rear end, and providing for the components or
3 subassemblies of a rear counterweight, lights and a bumper, the improvement
4 comprising:

5 the bumper and the rear counterweight are comprised of a generally flat
6 elongate rear end plate having opposing outer end regions and extending across
7 the entire width of the grader;

8 the rear end plate exhibits a small wall thickness in use with a rear-
9 mounted piece of equipment of a high weight;

10 the rear end plate exhibits a greater wall thickness in use with a rear-
11 mounted piece of equipment of a low weight or without any rear-mounted
12 equipment;

13 the rear end plate viewed in the direction of travel of the grader constitutes
14 the rearmost part of the rear frame; and

15 backup/brake and flasher lights are built into openings in the rear end
16 plate positioned in the outer end regions.

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1 2. The improvement of claim 1, wherein:

2 the rear end plate is formed as one piece.

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1 3. The improvement of claim 2, wherein:

2 the rear ends of the left longitudinal beam and the right longitudinal beam
3 are joined to a rear transverse beam.

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1 4. The improvement of claim 3, wherein:

2 the rear end plate is removably attached to the rear transverse beam.

1 5. The improvement of claim 1, wherein:
2 the rear ends of the left longitudinal beam and the right longitudinal beam
3 are joined to a rear transverse beam.

1 6. The improvement of claim 2, wherein:
2 the rear ends of the left longitudinal beam and the right longitudinal beam
3 are joined to a rear transverse beam.

1 7. The improvement of claim 3, wherein:
2 the rear end plate is removably attached to the rear transverse beam.

1 8. A road grader comprising:
2 a wheel-supported main frame having a front end and an opposing rear
3 end as determined by the normal direction of travel, the main frame comprised of
4 joined front and rear frames;
5 an engine and a driver's cab supported on said main frame;
6 a vertically adjustable ground-engaging blade supported by said main
7 frame;
8 the rear frame having left and right longitudinal beams generally parallel
9 and in the general same horizontal plane, each with a rear end;
10 a generally flat elongate rear end plate jointed to the rear end of each of
11 the right and left longitudinal beams; the rear end plate constituting the rearmost
12 part of the rear frame and extending generally the width of the road grader;
13 the rear end plate having openings therethrough to accommodate the
14 attachment of rear-mounted equipment.

1 9. The road grader of claim 8, wherein:
2 the rear end plate is formed as one piece.

- 1 10. The road grader of claim 9, wherein:
 - 2 the rear end plate is removably attached to the rear transverse beam.
- 1 11. The road grader of claim 8, wherein:
 - 2 the rear end plate has opposing outer end portions and openings through
 - 3 the outer end portions and backup/brake and flasher lights are fitted therein.
- 1 12. The road grader of claim 11, wherein:
 - 2 the rear end plate is made of heavy gauge steel.